

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a solar cell, comprising:
placing a substrate for a solar cell on an electrode inside a chamber;
covering said substrate with a plate, wherein said plate is provided with a number of opening portions; and
forming textures on a surface of the substrate by using residues generated during etching and being chiefly composed of components of the substrate as an etching mask, wherein a distance between said substrate and a surface of said plate opposing said substrate in a peripheral portion of said plate is set shorter than a distance between said substrate and said surface opposing said substrate in a central portion of said plate.

14. (Previously presented): The method for producing a solar cell according to claim 13, wherein said textures are formed by a reactive ion etching method.

15-19. (Canceled.)

20. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a solar cell, comprising:
placing a substrate for a solar cell on an electrode inside a chamber;
covering said substrate with a plate provided with a number of opening portions;

forming textures on a surface of said substrate using residues generated during etching and being chiefly composed of components of the substrate as an etching mask,

wherein said plate is provided with a protruding wall on a surface opposing said substrate and said protruding wall is separated from a nearest surface of said substrate by a space.

21. (Previously Presented): The method for producing a solar cell according to claim 20, wherein said textures are formed by a reactive ion etching method.

22-23. (Canceled.)

24. (Currently Amended): The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said plate is provided with a protruding wall on a surface thereof opposing said substrate and said protruding wall is separated from a nearest surface thereof opposing said substrate and said protruding wall is separated from a nearest surface of said substrate by a space.

25. (Previously presented): The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 20, wherein a lower end portion of said protruding wall abuts on said electrode.

26. (Previously presented): The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 20, wherein the substrate for a solar cell is a silicon substrate.